

The Gravity of Gratitude by John Piper
Solid Joys, desiringGod.org

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful . . . (2 Timothy 3:1-2)

Notice how ingratitude goes with pride, abuse, and insubordination.

In another place Paul says, "Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking . . . but instead let there be thanksgiving" (Ephesians 5:4). So, it seems that gratitude, thankfulness, is the opposite of ugliness and violence.

The reason this is so is that the feeling of gratitude is a humble feeling, not a proud one. It is other-exalting, not self-exalting. And it is glad-hearted, not angry or bitter. Bitter thankfulness is a contradiction in terms.

The key to unlocking a heart of thankfulness and overcoming bitterness

and ugliness and disrespect and violence is a strong belief in God, the Creator and Sustainer and Provider and Hope-giver. If we do not believe we are deeply indebted to God for all we have and hope to have, then the very spring of gratitude has gone dry.

So, I conclude that the rise of violence and sacrilege and ugliness and insubordination in the last times is a God-issue. The basic issue is a failure to feel gratitude at the upper levels of our dependence.

When the high spring of gratitude to God fails at the top of the mountain, soon all the pools of thankfulness begin to dry up further down the mountain. And when gratitude goes, the sovereignty of the self condones more and more corruption for its pleasure.

Pray for a great awakening of humble gratitude.



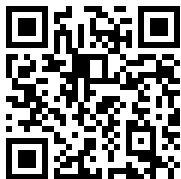
November 24, 2019

He is the Image of the Invisible God

Events

11/26 Thanksgiving
testimonies 7:15 PM
12/4 Small Groups
12/8 College & Career Lunch
1 PM
12/15 Christmas Music
Program 5:30 PM

Give



Upcoming Events



Pastors

Gary Hendrix
Stu Johnston
Michael Lopes

Stephen Byrd
Bob Prentice

Service Times

—Sunday School 9:30 am
—Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
—Sunday Evening Worship 5:30 pm
—Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:15 pm

919-563-9249
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Traducción
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servicios
de AM y PM

Morning Worship

Call to Worship
Congregational Reading
Opening Hymn

Pastor Bob Prentice
Psalm 8, page 450
Doxology
10,000 Reasons

(Chorus)

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.**

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
it's time to sing Your song again.

Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes. **(Chorus)**

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.

Your name is great and Your heart is kind.

For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. **(Chorus)**

And on that day, when my strength is failing,
the end draws near, and my time has come;

still, my soul will sing Your praise unending
ten thousand years, and then forever more! **(Chorus 2x)**

I'll worship Your holy name, I'll worship Your holy name.

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Scripture Reading
Pastoral Prayer
Offertory

Romans 9:1-18, page 945

**My Heart is Filled with
Thankfulness**

My heart is filled with thankfulness to Him who bore my pain;
Who plumbed the depths of my disgrace and gave me life again;
Who crushed my curse of sinfulness and clothed me with His light-
And wrote His law of righteousness with pow'r upon my heart.

My heart is filled with thankfulness to Him who walks beside;
Who floods my weaknesses with strength and causes fears to fly.
Whose ev'ry promise is enough for ev'ry step I take.
Sustaining me with arms of love and crowning me with grace.

My heart is filled with thankfulness to Him who reigns above;
Whose wisdom is my perfect peace, whose ev'ry thought is love.
For ev'ry day I have on earth is given by the King.
So I will give my life, my all, to love and follow Him.

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Preparatory

How Great is Our God

The splendor of a king, Clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice, All the earth rejoice
He wraps Himself in light, And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice, Trembles at His voice.

**(Chorus) How great is our God, Sing with me
How great is our God, And all will see
How great, how great is our God**

Age to age He stands, And time is in His hands,
eginning and the end, Beginning and the end
The Godhead Three in One: Father, Spirit, Son,
The Lion and the Lamb, The Lion and the Lamb. **(Chorus)**

(Bridge 2x) Name above all names

Worthy of all praise

My heart will sing

How great is our God

(Chorus 2x)

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Sermon

Pastor Gary Hendrix

Evening Worship

Call to Worship
Opening Hymn

Pastor Stephen Byrd
**#1 All People that on Earth do
Dwell**

Scripture Reading
Pastoral Prayer
Offertory
Preparatory

Acts 6, page 914

**#535 How Good it is
Jesus, Thank You**

The mystery of the cross I cannot comprehend, the agonies of Calvary.
You, the perfect Holy One, crushed Your Son, drank the bitter cup reserved for me.

(Chorus) Your blood has washed away my sin. Jesus, thank You.

The Father's wrath completely satisfied, Jesus, thank You.

Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table, Jesus, thank You.

By Your perfect sacrifice I've been brought near.

Your enemy You've made Your friend.

Pouring out the riches of Your glorious grace,

Your mercy and Your kindness know no end.

(Chorus) Your blood has washed away my sin. Jesus, thank You.

The Father's wrath completely satisfied, Jesus, thank You.

Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table, Jesus, thank---

Your blood has washed away my sin. Jesus, thank You.

The Father's wrath completely satisfied, Jesus, thank You.

Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table, Jesus, thank You.

**(Bridge) Lover of my soul, I want to live for You. Lover of my soul,
I want to live for You.**

Lover of my soul, I want to live for You. (Final Chorus, 1 x)

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Sermon

Pastor Stu Johnston